

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BARRAN 00199 142020Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CA-01 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 PPTE-00 FAA-00
DOTE-00 CAB-05 /069 W
-----058426 142033Z /62

P 141800Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 513
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS BARRANQUILLA 0199

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC CO
SUBJECT: CRASH OF PRESUMED AMERICAN-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT

LIMA FOR FAA

1. JUNE 9 EDITION OF EL HERALDO, BARRANQUILLA LOCAL
NEWSPAPER, CARRIED ARTICLE STATING THAT PREVIOUS DAY
SMALL PLANE HAD CRASHED INTO SEA OFF LOMA ARENAS,

NEAR CARTAGENA. ARTICLE SAID COLOMBIAN NAVAL AND
MARINE FORCES WERE TRYING TO RETRIEVE THE BODIES OF
THREE PERSONS INSIDE THE TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT. ARTICLE
ALSO STATED PLANE HAD TAKEN OFF FROM CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIPE SOUTH
OF CARTAGENA JUST AS COLOMBIAN POLICE AGENTS ARRIVED AT
AIRSTRIPE.

2. CONSULAR ASSISTANT TELEPHONED CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS,
CARTAGENA, WHO SAID REPORT HAD BEEN RECEIVED JUNE 3, FROM FISHER-
MAN RUBEN BENEDETTI, THAT BENEDETTI HAD SEEN SMALL JET
PREVIOUS NIGHT AT ABOUT 10PM, FLYING LOW AND FALLING
INTO SEA, EXPLODING. CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIAL SUGGESTED
CONSULAR ASSISTANT CONTACT LOCAL NAVY BASE FOR ADDITIONAL
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INFORMATION.

3. LT. ARANGO OF COLOMBIAN NAVY BASE, CARTAGENA, TOLD
CONSULAR ASSISTANT THAT AS OF JUNE 9, THE WRECKAGE
OF THE PLANE BELIEVED TO HAVE CRASHED JUNE 2 HAD NOT
BEEN FOUND. HE SAID NAVY IS SEARCHING THE AREA.

4. IN JUNE 11 EDITION EL ESPECTADOR, BOGOTA NEWS-PAPER, INCIDENT WAS AGAIN REFERRED TO, MENTIONING THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE HAD BEEN DETAINED IN CASE AND THAT BODIES OF THREE CREWMEN STILL HAD NOT BEEN RECOVERED FROM PLANE.

5. AFTERNOON JUNE 13, CONOFF RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM DEA REP, BOGOTA, WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN CLAEED BY GUSTAVO CALDERON CHIEF DEPARTAMENTO ADMINISTRATIVO DE SEGURIDAD (DAS) IN CARTAGENA. DEA REP SAID CALDERON TOLD HIM THREE CREWMEMBERS SURVIVED CRASH AND WERE DETAINED BY POLICIAL NACIONAL, CARTAGENA. THEIR NATIONALITY WAS NOT KNOWN.

6. MORNING JUNE 14, CONSULAR ASSISTANT SPOKE WITH LT. MARTINEZN OF POLICIA NACIONAL, CARTAGENA, WHO SAID POLICE HAVE NOT DETAINED ANYONE AND DO NOT KNOW OF WRECKAGE OF PLANE HAVING YET BEEN LOCATED.

7. POST IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS FROM OFFICIALS OF NAVY, AND POLICE IN CARTAGENA, AS WELL AS FROM REPORTERS WHO WROTE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING AIRCRAFT AND ITS OCCUPANTS WILL BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY. FRANK

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NNN

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